



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

March 24, 2017

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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### Summative Assessment Updates

Use the quick links below to access articles or sections included in this newsletter.

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### State Assessment Windows

The chart below lists the state assessment windows that open next week. The administration dates run until the end of May, except for the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)/ Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Science test, which concludes on April 28. Additionally, the Connecticut SAT School Day will be administered on April 5, with makeup dates planned for April 25 and 26.

State Assessment	Testing Window	Resources
<a href="#">CMT/CAPT</a>	March 27 - April 28	<a href="#">Resources for Science Test Administration</a>
<a href="#">CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist</a>	Upload Dates: March 27 - April 28	<a href="#">Resources for Skills Checklist Science Upload</a>
<a href="#">Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA)</a>	March 27 - May 26	<a href="#">Resources for CTAA Test Administration</a>
<a href="#">Connecticut Smarter Balanced</a>	March 27 - May 26	<a href="#">Resources for Smarter Balanced Test Administration</a>
<a href="#">Connecticut SAT School Day</a>	April 5 Makeup Dates: April 25 and 26	<a href="#">Resources for Connecticut SAT School Day Test Administration</a>

### CMT and CAPT Science Quick Guides

The CMT and CAPT Science quick guides for the upcoming online test administration have been added to the [Connecticut Comprehensive program portal](#). These quick guides provide easy, step-by-step instructions on how test administrators can access and assist students in completing the CMT and CAPT Science online. The guides can be used as a supplement to, but should **NOT** replace the 2017 CMT/CAPT Science Test Administration Manual.

### Smarter Balanced Sample Items Web Site

The [Smarter Balanced Sample Items Web Site](#) is now available. The Smarter Balanced public Web site with links to the sample items site, has also been updated and includes [a blog post about the new site on Smarter News](#). Please share this new resource with your schools.



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**Summative Assessment Updates**

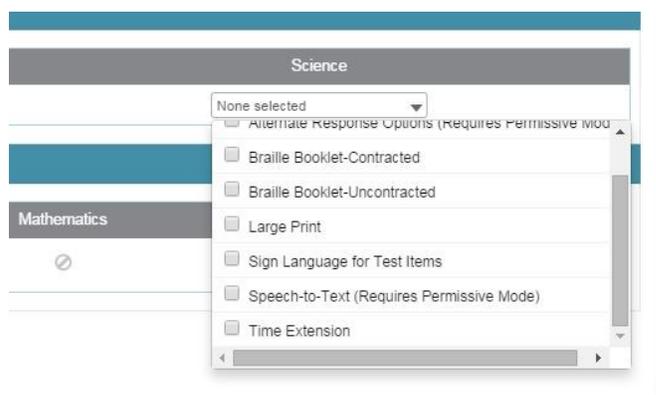
**Correction to the CMT/CAPT Science Test Administration Manual**

American Institutes for Research (AIR) has posted an ERRATA on the [portal](#). This corrects two errors in the teacher instructions that occurs on page 21 and 22 of the 2016-17 *CMT/CAPT Science: Test Administration Manual for Online Testing*. These errors have to do with instructions to the students. The first error incorrectly requires students to answer items in order before being allowed to continue. The science test sessions have no such restriction, so this direction should not be read to students. The second error instructs students to **PAUSE** upon completion of the science test session. Because the science test is a timed test, students need to **SUBMIT** their test when the session is over, rather than **PAUSE** their test. Tests that are **PAUSED** will be **SUBMITTED** automatically at the end of the testing day. These errors have been corrected in the [online version of the manual](#). Please contact [Jeff Greig](#) if you have any questions.

**2017 Next Generation Science Assessment Pilot**

Please see the [memo](#) from Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Chief Performance Officer, that provides information regarding the upcoming 2017 Next Generation Science Standards Assessment Pilot. Designated Supports and/or Accommodations for eligible students in Grade 5, 8 or 11 participating in the NGSS assessment pilot must be entered in TIDE Test Settings prior to May 1, 2017. For students in Grade 5 and 8 who already have their Designated Supports and/or Accommodations in TIDE, additional entry is not necessary. For students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, districts will need to enter Designated Supports and/or Accommodations in TIDE. Students who require Large print, Braille or need a special accommodation such as a scribe are not required to test.

The NGSS assessment pilot test is a timed test. Students with an IEP or a Section 504 plan who need this accommodation must be indicated under Non-Embedded Accommodation in Science (see image below). For English Learners (EL) who need extended time, entry into TIDE is not required but districts will need to maintain an internal record of those students receiving this accommodation.

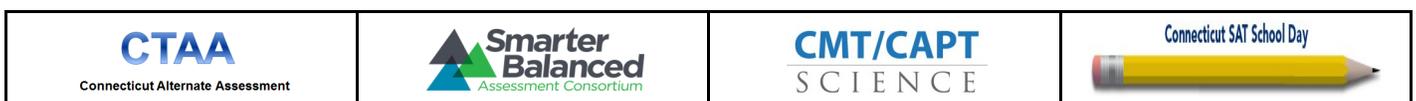


**Customizable Parent Letters**

The following parent letters have been made available as a resource for districts in preparation for spring testing.

[SAT Parent Letter](#)  
[\(Spanish Version\)](#)

[Smarter Balanced and CMT/CAPT Science Letter](#)  
[\(Spanish Version\)](#)





## Summative Assessment Updates

### Types and Purposes of Student Assessment in Education

A document titled [Types and Purposes of Student Assessment in Education: An FAQ](#) is available on our Web site. The document provides information about the purposes of summative, interim and formative assessment in an FAQ format. Districts may find it helpful to review as the 2016-17 testing administration opens.

The *Types and Purposes of Student Assessment in Education* document helps to answer the following questions:

- What does the word “assess” mean?
- What are the types of assessments in education? Can one assessment serve all purposes?
- What is a summative assessment? What is the purpose of Connecticut’s summative assessments?
- Does the statewide mastery examination drive day-to-day classroom instruction?
- What is formative assessment? What purpose does it serve?
- What are interim assessments? What purposes do they serve?



## Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

### Connecticut SAT School Day Test Materials

Test materials for the April 5, 2017, administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day will be shipped to schools the week of March 27, 2017. All schools will receive test materials based on the number of students registered in the Public School Information System (PSIS), as well as materials for students who are approved for special materials through the College Board’s Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) system. Schools should receive their materials by March 30, 2017. If you do not receive your materials by March 30, 2017, or if you need additional materials, please call the College Board immediately at 855-373-6387.

### Translated Test Directions

Translated test directions for the Connecticut SAT School Day have been posted to our [Web site](#). The directions are available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#) and [Vietnamese](#). Additionally, other languages can be supported with test day translators. As a reminder, English learner (EL) students may receive directions translated in their native language for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Schools do **NOT** need to apply for this support in the College Board’s SSD online system.

### Connecticut SAT School Day Supervisors Online Training

The Connecticut SAT School Day training is available as a recorded webinar on the [Connecticut State Department of Education \(CSDE\) SAT Web site](#). This training is required for all new Test Center Supervisors, and recommended for returning supervisors as a refresher. A version for Associate Supervisors is also available that you can use to train your test day staff. Please contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.

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## Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

### Transfer Scenarios and Testing on the Connecticut SAT School Day

The [Connecticut SAT School Day Guidance for Testing Students Who Transfer into Schools](#) provides guidance about testing students who enroll in your school between January 27 and April 14, 2017. Please review this document to ensure that you are accounting for all Grade 11 students who must be tested. All Grade 11 students in PSIS who were supposed to be tested on April 5, and were not, should be tested on the makeup date even if in a new school. Contact [Michelle Rosado](#) if you have any questions.

### State Allowed Accommodations

Some students taking the SAT require the accommodations of sign language for test content or responses. Additionally, some EL students require extended time. The window to enter these accommodations into the College Board's SSD online system is open now, but it closes on March 31, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact [Joe Amenta](#).

### Approved List of Bilingual Dictionary Word-to-Word Translation

The list of approved College Board-Approved Word-to-Word Glossaries for the Connecticut SAT School Day is posted to this [Web site](#). Unlike last year, schools do NOT need to apply for accommodations for EL students who use Bilingual Dictionary Word-to-Word Translation.

### Updates to Student Rosters

Updates to student rosters will be made this week by College Board based on a new registration file submitted by the CSDE to the College Board on March 17, 2017. This new file will capture any students who have moved in or out of schools since the end of January.

Students taking the Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) may appear on your SAT rosters. Please mark those students as absent on the roster. The CSDE will reconcile this information after CTAA and Connecticut SAT School Day testing are complete.

Information regarding using student rosters for the Connecticut SAT School Day are included in this [resource](#).



## Special Populations Updates

### TIDE Test Setting Update

On February 22, 2017, the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) was updated so that accommodations can only be entered for students with an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. English learner (EL) students who require *time extension* for science **are** allowed to receive this accommodation. The updated TIDE will not allow you to indicate this under test setting. Therefore, you will not be able to indicate time extension for science for your EL students in TIDE, but you can still provide this support during testing. **Your test proctor will need to be made aware of EL students with time extension for science prior to testing.**

CTAA

Connecticut Alternate Assessment



CMT/CAPT  
SCIENCE

Connecticut SAT School Day



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Special Populations Updates

**Adding Designated Supports and Accommodations in TIDE**

Many districts use an individualized education program (IEP) vendor to batch upload designated supports and accommodations into TIDE. There are a few things to consider before doing this batch upload:

- All out-placed students should be removed from a district’s file. Outplacement facilities are responsible for entering these students.
- Requests for accommodations are only available for students with an IEP or Section 504 plan. If this is not indicated in your district’s PSIS (and therefore, not indicated in TIDE), any accommodations entered will be rejected. Below is an image in TIDE of the status in the demographics area that should be used to confirm status from PSIS.

IDEA Indicator:  BLANK  Yes

**IDEA Indicator** refers to students with an IEP.

**LEP Status** refers to students that are EL.

**Section 504** is indicated with YES.

LEP Status:  BLANK  Yes

\*Section 504:

Please also consider that EL students are allowed extended time for Science, but districts cannot indicate this in TIDE.

**Connecticut Alternate Assessment Secure Paper Forms**

The Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) Secure Paper Forms are available in TIDE in the *Preparing For Testing Section in the Secure Testing Materials* Tab. These subject and grade specific CTAA paper-test forms are intended to accommodate the small number of students eligible for the CTAA, who are not able to participate in the online test delivery system. The secure CTAA paper test form is accessible only to those individuals with the user role of District Administrator (DA). It is expected that the DA would develop a districtwide system to track the security of these documents throughout testing and destroy them in a secure manner following the testing. These forms may be requested by the trained Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) to use with the required Directions for Test Administration (DTA) for individual students. Student responses are ultimately submitted into the test delivery system by the TEA.

**Connecticut Alternate Assessment Practice Test**

The CTAA Practice Test TEAs and students have access to sample items for both reading and mathematics prior to the beginning of the test window. The items allow the TEA and student to engage with, and become familiar with the online item presentation and test any assistive technology required. Practice tests are located on the [Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal Practice and Training Tests](#).



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Special Populations Updates

**Connecticut Alternate Assessment Secure Directions for Test Administration**

The CTAA secure Directions for Test Administration (DTA) are available on the CSDE Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal for individuals with the user role of Teacher Administering the Alternate (TEA) or District Administrator (DA). These DTAs are required for administration of all CTAA English language arts and math grade specific tests. The brochure [How to Access and Download the Secure Connecticut Alternate Assessment Directions for Test Administration](#) is available for your reference to help with downloading these documents.

**Students in the Public School Information System Who Attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities**

Connecticut public school districts are responsible for testing students registered in the Public School Information System (PSIS) who are enrolled in out-of-state facilities or in-state non-approved facilities. Information on how to administer the CMT/CAPT Science (including Skills Checklist), Smarter Balanced assessment and the CTAA may be accessed in [Students in PSIS who attend Out-of-State Facilities or In-State Non-Approved Facilities](#). Districts with Grade 11 students who attend out-of-state facilities or in-state non-approved facilities have already been notified by the CSDE about testing those students.

**Please note: Only individuals with the user role of District Administrator (DA) can access out-of-state students or students attending non-approved facilities in TIDE. Only the DA can enter [a CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklists Science Eligibility & Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\)](#) or supports and/or accommodations for these students in TIDE.**

**Alternate Assessment Indicator**

Primary Disability Type:

Alternate Assessment Indicator :  Yes  No

The Alternate Assessment Indicator located in the Student Demographics section in the TIDE student profile will be indicated as “Yes” for students with an LCI submitted previously into the Data Entry Interface (DEI) by the March 17, 2017, due date. The Alternate Assessment Indicator is required for the TEA for these students to access the online test delivery system for administration of the CTAA and to be able to upload a CMT or CAPT Skills Checklist Science into the DEI beginning March 27, 2017.

**Connecticut Alternate Assessment English Language Arts Verbal or Non-Verbal Form**

Students enrolled in **Grade 3 or 4** participating in the CTAA must have the Verbal or Non-Verbal test form selected. Students who do not respond with oral speech, are Blind, deaf or Deaf-Blind, or use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) should have the Non-Verbal Form selected. Teachers Administering the Alternate should administer the appropriate form for each student. Refer to page 8 of the [CTAA Test Administration Manual](#).

**Previously Shared Information**

Please access the following Special Populations topics in the [March 9, 2017, edition of the Student Assessment News](#).

- **Required Text-to-Speech and Read Aloud Decision Guidelines 2016-17 Form Submission**
- **CTAA User Guide**
- **Deadline for Required Training to Administer Connecticut’s Alternate Assessments**
- **CTAA and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science Eligibility & LCI Deadline**



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**Annual TIDE/PSIS Data Sync for TIDE–Related Assessments**

It is important for District Administrators and Public School Information System (PSIS) Coordinators to understand the ongoing relationship between the PSIS and the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE). Accurate reporting of individual student status at the time of testing in the PSIS Registration Module is the only way to ensure accurate reporting of the annual statewide test results.

District Administrators will need to work with their District PSIS Coordinators to ensure that accurate student information is being reported in the PSIS Registration Module, and subsequently in TIDE. The PSIS Coordinators should make all changes to student enrollment and demographic information directly in the PSIS Registration Module. During the summative test window (March 27—May 26) for CMT/CAPT Science, Smarter Balanced, and their related alternate assessments, changes will appear in TIDE the day after those changes are made in the PSIS.

**PSIS Registration Module**

Any changes to a student’s status at the time of testing should be made directly in the PSIS Registration Module. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) requires the following data from districts on five important data fields. These data fields are:

- English Learner (EL) Status;
- Special Education (SPED) Status;
- Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) Status;
- Recently Arrived EL Status; and
- 504 Status (Status must be noted even if a student is not receiving Accommodations/Designated Supports.)

These values must show the student’s status at the time of testing. District PSIS Coordinators may now enter up-to-date data for these fields in the PSIS Registration Module. These values will be reflected in TIDE.

The PSIS information reflected in TIDE is for all of the following assessments:

- Smarter Balanced;
- CTAA;
- CMT/CAPT Science; and
- CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science.

Student demographic values will be saved and the fields locked in PSIS **on May 26, 2017**. Students who enroll from outside the Connecticut public schools after May 22, 2017, will not be required to take the Smarter Balanced assessments.

**PSIS and the Connecticut SAT School Day**

Even though the Connecticut SAT School Day is not related to TIDE, PSIS demographic values should also be updated, as necessary to indicate a student's status at the time of testing for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Accurate reporting for these students in PSIS will help ensure accurate statewide test reporting for the Connecticut SAT School Day. Additionally, accuracy is very important since students will be registered for the April 2017 Connecticut SAT School Day based on the PSIS database.



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**Annual TIDE/PSIS Data Sync for TIDE–Related Assessments**

For any student who is participating in the April 5, 2017, Connecticut SAT School Day administration, the PSIS **Registration Module**, should indicate their correct demographic status **at the time of that testing**. Likewise, for students who are participating instead in the makeup dates for the Connecticut SAT School Day (April 25 or 26, 2017), accurate status **at the time of that test** should be reflected in the PSIS **Registration Module**.

*Please note: the grade recorded in PSIS should always reflect the grade in which the student is being educated.*



**English Learner Updates**

**English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment Participation**

Unlike in previous years, the CSDE will not collect student test information on those students who completed testing after the testing window closed on March 10, 2017. Only those students who are tested during the testing window will be reported. As described during training, if you had students during the testing window who were not able to access the speaking subtest because they are non-verbal or the listening subtest because they are deaf or hearing impaired, please contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837. Additionally, if the English learner would qualify for the alternate assessment if it were available, please contact Janet Stuck at 860-713-6837.



**A Study of Device Effects on the Smarter Balanced Assessments in Connecticut**

Do the devices used by students to take the Smarter Balanced assessments have any effect on their performance? A [recent study](#) completed by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) confirms that when controlling for free/reduced-price meal eligibility status and attending school district, the devices used by students have no significant impact on student performance.

The study used results from the 2015-16 Smarter Balanced operational administration of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments for more than 234,000 Connecticut students in Grades 3-8. Four devices were used by students to access the Smarter Balanced Assessment: Chromebooks, Macintosh desktops/laptops (Mac), Windows-based desktops/laptops and iPads.

Across all grades, about 47 percent of students used Chromebooks, 44 percent used Windows, 7 percent used Macs, and 2 percent used iPads. Given the small numbers of students using iPads in each grade, this study focused on performance comparisons among Mac, Windows and Chromebook users.

To review the methodology and results of the study, including a variety of descriptive statistics, please download the [entire paper](#). In our efforts to deliver the highest quality assessments, future research will include analyses of the same data to determine if specific test items function differently across devices.

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**Interim Assessment Updates**

**Creative Ways to Use the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks—New Training Date!**

The *optional* Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments provide teachers with an additional resource to measure students' mastery of specific content and skills aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards. The following training sessions are being provided to explore creative ways to integrate the interim assessments within curriculum and instruction. The training will be held at the [Institute of Technology & Business Development \(ITBD\) in New Britain](#). The [Interim Assessment Training flyer](#) describes the sessions in detail. E-mail [Deirdre Ducharme](#) or [Cristi Alberino](#) for more information.

Creative Ways to Use the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks
Register for <a href="#">April 3, 2017</a> Grades 6-8: 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Register for <a href="#">April 3, 2017</a> Grades 3-5: 12:30-3:30 p.m.

**2016-17 Important Dates**

Event	Dates
The <a href="#">secure browsers for the 2016-17 school year</a> must be downloaded for all 2016-17 online test administrations	Currently available
Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Testing Window (ICA and IAB) and Interim Assessment Teacher Hand Scoring System	October 18, 2016-June 9, 2017
Connecticut Smarter Balanced Assessment Window	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, May 26, 2017
CMT/CAPT Science and CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, April 28, 2017
Connecticut Alternate Assessment	Monday, March 27, 2017-Friday, May 26, 2017
Connecticut SAT School Day	Wednesday, April 5, 2017 Makeup dates: April 25 and April 26, 2017

**Register for email updates**

To automatically receive the *Student Assessment News* and/or other announcements, [register for e-mail updates](#) on the Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal.

 Connecticut Alternate Assessment			
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